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The ferns were in the sphagnum among Lycopodiums, cranberry, sundews, and many smaller plants. Just at this time, a man came along, with fire in his eye, and told us that no one was allowed on the cranberry bogs. We assured him that we did not want his cranberries, whereupon he said that didn't make any difference. We said we were not harming his berries, and showed him what we were looking for, but you and I can imagine in which of two categories he placed us. However, he left, and if Mrs. Martin had not wanted to get an earlier train we might have made a larger capture. When, on returning, we told of our good luck, others tried theirs, but were not successful. In the sphagnum, which was around my plant, I found another sterile one. Kept wet for days, the fronds took on the exact curl of a corkscrew.

Other plants found were the horned bladderwort and a very tiny one, sand myrtle, *Eriocaulon septangulare*, *Eryngium Virginianum*, with its peculiar blue gray thimbles, St. Andrew's cross, and a great many more. To our regret, the purple Bladderwort was no longer in bloom, and we did not find the lovely Pine Barren Gentian *G. Porphyrio*.

At six o'clock came the call for the homeward journey. Box suppers had been provided, and every detail looked after, by our splendid guide, Mr. Percy Wilson, who will always be associated with a perfect day at Toms River.

NEW YORK CITY

Notes and News

THE FERN-PICKING INDUSTRY. The following item appeared in a Vermont paper some time in the past summer:

CAR LOADS OF FERNS

Over 50 car loads of ferns have been sent this season from Bennington County to refrigerator headquarters in Pittsfield, Mass. Two car loads are sent from Bennington village each day.

An article by F. E. Robertson in *The Vermonter* for October gives some additional information regarding the fern picking industry. He says: "in the towns of Woodford, Searsburg, Stamford and Readsboro over 50,000,000 ferns" (doubtless meaning fronds) "are gathered annually. These have a local value of something over \$20,000. These ferns are picked when in prime and tied in bundles of 100 each. The picker is paid about four cents per bundle—a good picker will gather from 10,000 to 12,000 ferns daily."

A correspondent in another part of Vermont, referring to *Dryopteris Goldiana*, says, "I recently shipped 1700 plants to a firm in N. J." and in another part of the same letter, "I am not a collector of plants for sale, but have yielded to the request of florists and removed about 3000" (*D. Goldiana* plants) "from this location taking care that plenty were left to develop."

This sudden activity in the market for wild ferns is not apparently related in any way to the European war and seems likely to have a continuing development. Judging by the fate of certain wild flowers this development will probably be attended with a certain amount of destruction and extermination.

The transplanting of wild ferns for cultivation in well kept gardens is a commendable practice, and the demand for live plants must be strictly limited as they are perennial. The collection of fronds of the evergreen wood ferns may not seriously injure the plants, if it is done in the later part of summer, and if a proper method is used for separating the fronds from the crown.

If some Vermont reader who is in position to observe will report to the JOURNAL the methods and conditions under which this industry is carried on and any ap-

parent effects upon the fern growth of the region, we shall be prepared to advocate suitable conservation measures, in case such action appears to be desirable.

E. J. WINSLOW.

Of further interest in connection with Mr. Winslow's note are advertisements of the following sort which are taken from a florists' trade paper: "Dagger and fancy ferns, finest quality, \$1.50 per 1000." "New crop fancy ferns and dagger ferns, \$1.25 per 1000." "Dagger fern" is a name for *Polystichum acrostichoides*. "Fancy fern" refers to *Dryopteris intermedia*, which is available for this purpose owing to its evergreen character, an interesting point of distinction from *D. dilatata* and *D. spinulosa*. The leaves collected are finally baled in bales several feet in each dimension, and then shipped to cold storage to be held till called out for the retail florist at so much per thousand leaves.

R. C. B.

HAS *ATHYRIUM PYCNOCARPON* BEEN FOUND IN NEW JERSEY? If *Athyrium pycnocarpon* (*A. angustifolium*) has not heretofore been recorded from New Jersey, the record may now be entered. On June 19 last the Torrey Botanical Club carried out a field trip for ferns in the woods near West Englewood, N. J. Eighteen species were found, including the species named above, which was not noted as of particular interest. A few weeks ago, however, Mr. Percy Wilson called the writer's attention to the fact that it had apparently never been recorded for New Jersey before. The latest flora dealing with New Jersey, The Flora of the Vicinity of New York by Mr. Norman Taylor, makes no mention of this species, and a brief search in other local floras has failed to show any record of it. Herbarium material

of it has been deposited at the New York Botanical Garden.

R. C. B.

American Fern Society

OUR FIRST HONORARY MEMBER. The Index Filicum of Carl Christensen is easily the most indispensable of all fern books for the fern systematist who deals with more than local groups. Add to this his scholarly monographic work on the genus *Dryopteris* and related genera, mainly concerned with American forms, some briefer papers of which have appeared in the pages of the JOURNAL, and we have the basis for his election as an honorary member of the American Fern Society. The Society is honored in his acceptance which appears below.

In Vol. 2, p. 52 of the JOURNAL will be found a biographical sketch with a list (not quite complete) of his papers on ferns up to that time. We expect to publish a complete and up to date bibliography in the next issue. We may hope that future numbers of the JOURNAL may include many more contributions from our first honorary member.

R. C. B.

TO THE AMERICAN FERN SOCIETY:

I take great pleasure in expressing my acceptance of and gratitude for the honor which the American Fern Society has conferred upon me by electing me a honorary member of the Society, and of which I hope I shall prove myself worthy.

I wish that your Society may be continuously growing for the benefit of that branch of botany, that its members and myself are so devotedly studying. I will always be glad to publish in the AMERICAN FERN